

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed April 11, 2005, claims 1-26 were rejected. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 1, 8, 12 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 6, 7 and 17 have been cancelled. As such, claims 1-5, 8-16 and 18-22 remain pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 12-16 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated over United States Patent No. 5,642,573 to LeHan *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "LeHan"). In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable.

Initially, Applicants note that it is axiomatic that to qualify as an anticipation under Section 102, the cited reference must "bear within its four corners adequate directions for the practice of the patent invalidated." (See, for example, Dewey & Almay Chemical Co. v. Mimex Co., Inc., 52 U.S.P.Q. 138 (2nd Cir. 1942)). Applicants respectfully submit that LeHan embodies no such directions.

In light of the amendment contained herein, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 12-16 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LeHan is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability with regards to claims 7-11 and 17-20. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended to independent claim 1 and 12 to include the allowable subject matter. Therefore, these claims and any dependent claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request all the objections and rejections to the specification and claims be removed. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

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Serial No. 09/918,724
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Patent

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87288.1520.

Respectfully submitted,

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